

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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BRUSSELS FOR EMBASSY AND FAA

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MEETING BETWEEN AIR FRANCE AND DOT
OFFICIAL.

1. SUMMARY:

DEPUTY ASST SEC OF TRANSPORTATION RAY YOUNG MET
JUNE 8 WITH AIR FRANCE PRESIDENT GILBERT PEROL AND HIS
SENIOR STAFF. PURPOSE HAS TO MAKE CASE FOR CURRENT LONG-
TERM US POLICY AND TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS FROM AIR FRANCE
PERSPECTIVE. BEFORE AND AFTER MEETING, SHORT-TERM
BILATERAL PROBLEMS WERE RAISED BY AF OFFICIALS. END
SUMMARY.

2. BEFORE MEETING WITH PEROL, AF STAFF RAISED SHORT
TERM ISSUES OF CHANGE OF GAUGE AND BOARD PART 213
ORDER. YOUNG DEMURRED, STATING HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO
DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. AF INTERNATIONAL VP
COLETTE RIVOAL STATED VIEW THAT CURRENT SITUATION WAS
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UNFORTUNATE, AND THAT IT COULD ESCALATE TO POINT WHERE
GOF WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RETALIATE, POSSIBLE BY RE-
STRICTING US CHARTER FLIGHTS. SHE STATED BELIEF THAT
CURRENT SITUATION WAS UNFORTUNATE, AND THAT IT COULD
ESCALATE TO POINT WHERE GOF WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RE-
TALIATE, POSSIBLY BY RESTRICTING US CHARTER
FLIGHTS. SHE STATED BELIEF THAT GOF WOULD TODAY OR

TOMORROW TRANSMIT FORMAL REQUEST FOR BROAD NEGOTIATIONS
WITH US.

3. MEETING WITH PEROL WAS CONSTRUCTIVE. HE GAVE HIS
VIEW THAT AF WAS SYMPATHETIC TO BROAD US OBJECTIVES
OF IMPROVING SERVICE TO PUBLIC. HOWEVER, IT WAS
NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND WHETHER MEASURES BEING TAKEN
WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES.

4. PEROL MADE TWO MAJOR POINTS ON FARE POLICY AND
CHARTER POLICY.

A. FIRST, FARES ARE TOO UNSTABLE TODAY. IN AF
VIEW IT IS NECESSARY FOR LONGER ADVANCED FILING OF
FARES AND FOR LESS FREQUENT FARE CHANGES. AF ALSO SAW
NEED TO HARMONIZE SCHEDULED AND CHARTER FARES.

B. SECOND, CHARTERS SHOULD BE TRUE CHARTERS. ONE
WAY CHARTERS ARE NOT TRUE CHARTERS. ONE WAY CHARTERS
WITH SHORT ADVANCE BOOKING PERIODS ARE QUASI-SCHEDULED
SERVICES. IF IT HAD TO COMPETE WITH CHARTERS UNDER
VERY LIBERAL RULES, THEN AF FEELS IT NEEDS PART-CHARTER
AUTHORITY.

5. AFTER CONCLUSION OF MEETING, AF VP RIVOAL SAID THAT
AF HAD REVIEWED WHAT IT WANTED OUT OF COMPREHENSIVE
NEGOTIATIONS AND WAS NOW RECOMMENDING TO QUAI D'ORSAY
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THAT THESE BE REQUESTED. SHE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST
IN PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH US AND FRG HAD INITIATED
FULL-SCALE BILATERAL REVIEW.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION EMBASSY HAS RE-
CEIVED IN PARIS THAT AIR FRANCE MAY BE ACTIVELY IN-
TERESTED IN NEW RIGHTS TO U.S. IT APPEARS CONSISTANT
WITH LAST WEEKS MENTION IN WASHINGTON OF POSSIBLE IN-
TEREST IN PARIS -MIAMI ROUTE.
HARTMAN

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